during this period, State-wise, for medical treatment alongwith the case rate of survival of insured persons; and

(c) what is the minimum period required for providing financial assistance to an insured person for higher treatment after he is duly recommended by the certifying physician and what is the monitoring authority in case of delay for providing financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) During 1992-93, the total contribution received by the ESIC from I.Ps and employers was Rs. 449.95 crores and the total money spent for medical benefits was Rs. 187.30 crores.

(b) During 1992-93, eleven persons had been provided with financial assistance of more than Rs. 1 lakh each in the States of Kerala (2), Andhra Pradesh (1), Karnataka (3), Gujarat (1), Rajasthan (3), West Bengal (1). Survival rate of the concerned IPs is 100% (excluding one case from A.P. regarding which information is not available).

(c) The responsibiliy for administration of the medical care under the ESI Scheme vests on the State Governments/U.T. Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being directly administered by the ESI Corporation. For super specialities treatment of the I.Ps., the State Government/U.T. Administrations are authorised to immediately advance the money/financial assistance to the institutions where such treatment is proposed to be provided. There is no minimum period fixed for rendering such financial assistance. If there is any delay on this account the matter can be raised before the Director/Administrative Medical Officer of the ESI Scheme in the concerned State.

Revision in Minimum Wages and Pensions

1816. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enhance the minimum wages and pensions of the workers in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have issued Notification on 11-6-1993 proposing to revise the minimum rates of wages for the workers employed in 39 Scheduled employments in the Central sphere comprising mainly the activities of construction, mining, and loading and unloading operations in Railway good's sheds. The proposed rates of minimum wages for the unskilled category of worker varies from Rs. 21/- p.d. to Rs. 28/- p.d for construction workers, from Rs. 24/- p.d. to Rs. 35/- p.d. for Railway good's shed workers and Rs. 24/- p.d. to Rs. 29/- p.d. for mine workers. A bill has been introduced in Rajya Sabha for amendment of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for empowering the Central Government to frame pension scheme for the Employees Provident Fund subscribers. After the bill is passed by Parliament, necessary action to finalise and notify the pension scheme will be taken. As such, the question of considering enhancement in pension at this stage does not arise

Vacancies in ESI Hospitals

1817. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vacancies of Doctors, Specialists and para medical staff in the ESI hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and in the country; and

(b) what steps are contemplated to improve E.S.I. hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to the available information, 45 posts of medical officers, 18 posts of specialists and 99 posts of paramedical staff are vacant in the ESI hospitals in Andhra Pradesh. In the country, 838 posts of medical officers 233 posts of specialists and 2157 posts of paramedical staff are vacant under the ESI Scheme.